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the "Arrow" War, the war with France, the war with Japan, the Boxer war—a rather artificial construction which obscures the natural even course of historical development. Finally the Russo-Japanese War and the present hopeful reforms that are to be instituted in China are discussed at length. A very intimate character-study of the famous viceroy Chang Chih-tung is unrolled. There are two very pleasing features that appeal to one in these sketches—the just appreciation of the merits of the Manchu Dynasty, which has given to China a better government than any of her native dynasties, although the detailed comparison of the Manchu with the Normans does not strike us as a very happy one; and the ready acknowledgment of the good traits in the Empress Dowager, of whom he says that the elegance of her culture excites sincere admiration, and that the breadth of her understanding is such as to take in the details of government. The illustrations of the book are well selected and are all interesting, and there is no doubt that it will be appreciated by a large body of readers.

B. L.

**British Malaya: An Account of the Origin and Progress of British Influence in Malaya.** By Sir Frank Swettenham, late Governor of the Straits Colony and High Commissioner for the Federated Malay States. With a specially compiled map, numerous illustrations reproduced from photographs, and a frontispiece in photogravure. New York: John Lane Co., 1907. (\$4.50 net.) xii and 345 pp.

This is an admirable book from beginning to end, a permanent contribution towards the fascinating chapter of British colonial history. No one was better qualified for this task than Sir Frank Swettenham, through his thirty-four years of Malayan service an energetic and prominent participator in the development of the great colony described by him. From a study of this exceedingly well-written work, the reader receives only a feeling of highest admiration for the wisdom of colonial policy which crowned British labour in the Malayan peninsula as a lasting success. The primary factor leading to this end must be sought for in the prudent and fair treatment of the natives, Malayans as well as Chinese, from which all colonial powers ought to take an example. The Chinese the author regards as the main supports of the colony: it was largely on the tin-mines that the protected Malay States depended for their revenue, and it was the first endeavour of the Government to foster this industry by every legitimate means. The Chinese began the work, have continued it ever since, and their efforts have succeeded in producing more than half of the world's tin supply. Sir F. Swettenham's judgment on them is worth quoting *in extenso*:

Their energy and enterprise have made the Malay States what they are to-day, and it would be impossible to overstate the obligation which the Malay Government and people are under to these hard-working, capable, and law-abiding aliens. They were already the miners and the traders, and in some instances the planters and the fishermen, before the white man had found his way to the Peninsula. In all the early days it was Chinese energy and industry which supplied the funds to begin the construction of roads and other public works, and to pay for all the other costs of administration. Then they were, and still they are, the pioneers of mining. They have driven their way into remote jungles, cleared the forest, run all risks, and often made great gains. They have also paid the penalty imposed by an often deadly climate. But the Chinese were not only miners, they were charcoal-burners in the days when they had to do their own smelting; they were woodcutters, carpenters, and brickmakers; as contractors they constructed nearly all the Government buildings, most of the roads and bridges, railways and waterworks. They brought all the capital into the country when Europeans feared to take the risk; they were the traders and shopkeepers, and it was their steamers which first opened regular communication between the ports of the colony and the ports of the Malay States. They introduced tens of thousands of their countrymen when the one great need was labour to develop the hidden riches of an almost unknown and jungle-covered country, and it is their work, the taxation of the luxuries they

consume and of the pleasures they enjoy, which has provided something like nine-tenths of the revenue. When it is possible to look back upon a successful experiment, it is always of interest to ascertain the determining factors, and how far each affected the result. The reader should understand at once what is due to Chinese labour and enterprise in the evolution of the Federated Malay States.

Equally as just and appreciative is the author in his valuation of the Malayans, whose confidence the Government has gained in a marked degree by making the promotion of their welfare the first consideration, and consulting their chiefs on all affairs of importance. Of the administrative capacity of Malayan rulers, he holds a high opinion. Amongst the Térak chiefs, men with wide influence and of great authority, there are not a few who have proved their ability to hold high office. There are earnest and capable Râjas, loyal and energetic chiefs, in all the States, and it would be wrong to regard the Malay as a negligible quantity in his own country. The three most prominent Râjas were in no sense the product of English education. None of the three ever had any experience in an English school, but all of them learned much by a keen observation, by a desire to serve their country, and by a close association with British officers in all that has been done to bring the Malay States to their present position:

A Far-Eastern race which can produce men like these,

concludes the author,

who, under such circumstances, develop principles as high as those which guide the best Europeans and strive to live up to them, is not to be despised or dismissed as useless. "We have learned by long experience, by our own blunders, and by such success as has attended our venture in Malaya, that when you take the Malay—Sultan, Râja, chief, or simple village head-man—into your confidence, when you consult him on all questions affecting his country, you can carry him with you, secure his keen interest and co-operation and he will travel quite as fast as is expedient along the path of progress. If, however, he is neglected and ignored, he will resent treatment to which he is not accustomed, and which he is conscious is undeserved. If such a mistake were ever made (and the Malay is not a person who is always asserting himself, airing grievances, and clamoring for rights) it would be found that the administration had gone too fast, had left the Malay behind; left him discontented, perhaps offended, and that would mean trouble and many years of effort to set matters right again. All is well now, and a reasonable consideration for the people of the country will keep it well. The danger is that the legitimate aspirations of a people who are too reserved to complain aloud may be overlooked. If this record, with its lessons of the past and the experience of a long and close intimacy with Malays, serve to warn others to avoid that danger, the purpose of the book is gained."

If only the administrators in other Asiatic colonies would make a study of this book and take to heart its golden rules!

B. L.

**La Colonisation hollandaise à Java.** *Par Pierre Gonnaud.* Paris, Augustin Challamal, Editeur, 1905.

The literature on Java is rich in excellent monographs. Junghuhn has described it from the standpoint of the natural scientist, Raffles from that of the historian, Veth from that of the Dutchman. To these standard works Gonnaud has added another, whose main object is to present the colonial features of the island, to investigate the physiographic foundations, the antecedents, and the character of the Dutch colonisation in Java.

Among the physiographic traits, the one that seems to have impressed most deeply the majority of writers on Java is its volcanic character. But it has been over-emphasized, to the neglect of other, no less prominent, features. While the older formations constitute only about 1% of the surface, the Tertiary plays a part just as important as the volcanic deposits: 99% of the soil consist of Tertiary, Quaternary, and volcanic rocks, but only 28% of the ninety-nine belong to the latter.